

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1, 7-17, 21, 23-38, 39, and 41-42 were pending in the application.

Claims 2-6, 18-20, 22, and 40 were previously cancelled.

Claims 11 and 23 are amended herein.

In The Claims:

Claim 11 is amended to add the word "the".

Claim 23 is amended to make it depend from independent claim 21.

35 USC 103(a) Rejection Over JP 3037182U In View of US 5,923,146 to Martensson

A. There Is No Suggestion to Combine JP '182 and Martensson '146 As Proposed By The Examiner, Nor Does Martensson '146 Disclose A Storage Structure For An AC Extension Cord.

Independent claims 1, 21, and 39 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as unpatentable over Japanese utility model JP3037182 in view of US 5,923,146 to Martensson ("Martensson '146"). Applicant respectfully traverses the grounds for rejection.

Independent claim 1 (here rearranged) requires: An electrical extension lead, comprising:

- an electrical cable having a first end and a second end;
- a storage structure including a reel housing and the cable is stored by wrapping it around the storage structure;
- a plug socket arrangement connected to the first end of the cable and mounted on the storage structure and arranged for supplying electricity to electrical devices;
- an electrical plug for connection to electrical supply sources and connected to the second end of the cable; and
- a battery pack charging assembly connected to the first end of the cable and mounted on the storage structure, the charging assembly including a receptacle for holding and charging removable battery packs for powering electrical devices.

Independent claims 21 and 39 include similar limitations.

JP 3037182U does not include a reel for storing the extension cord. The Examiner states that it would have been obvious to modify the JP 3037182 in view of Martensson so as to wrap the cable of JP 3037182 in the manner taught by Martensson. The Applicant disagrees that this combination is suggested or motivated by either reference.

JP 3037182U ("JP '182") discloses a battery charger 2 and plurality of receptacle 4 sockets in a common housing 1 at the end of an extension cord. The JP '182 cord 3 is neither depicted nor described as particularly long, so as to make reel storage desirable. In deed, JP '182 indicates that the object of its invention is simply to avoid a battery charger taking up a valuable outlet that may be needed to supply other loads. See JP 182 Translation Para 3 "Problem To Be Solved." In this regard it suggests the desirability of keeping the "power strip" close to the mains source socket. Therefore, JP '182 teaches away from the need for any substantial length of power cord and consequently teaches away from the need to add a reel for storing a longer cord. It does not anywhere suggest the desirability of locating the charger/sockets so far from the mains source as to make reel storage of a long AC extension cord desirable.

Martensson '146, even more than JP '182, discloses a device that remains close to the mains source. In fact, the Martensson charging unit plugs directly to the mains socket via plug pins 5. Martensson '146 col. 3 lines 55-64. Furthermore, Martensson does not have an AC extension cord at all between its charger 1 and the mains source. The cord 13/113/213/31/413 in Martensson does not connect the charger to the mains power source, but rather it is a DC cord that connects the charging unit 1 to a remote apparatus with a battery needing charging. Martensson '146 col. 3 lines 43-54. In contrast, neither JP '182 nor the subject application include a DC charging cord or contemplate performing that function.

The Examiner is wrong where she asserts that Martensson '146 "teaches a housing 304 including a storage structure 330 . . . arranged for holding a portion of the AC electrical cable 313 in a coil." Action Page 5 lines 5-7. The Martensson '146 cable 313 is a DC cord since it is downstream of battery charging transformer/current generator housed in the casing. See Martensson '146 col. 4 lines 36-43, which describes the basic electrical arrangement of the several Martensson embodiments. Thus, Martensson '146 would not motivate or suggest the need to provide a reel for the storage of substantial length of AC extension cord.

The Applicant recognizes that the subject claims do not require a particular length of AC extension cord, but they do require a cord storage reel or coiling structure, so the question is whether the cited references suggest or motivate modifying JP '182 to include a reel for storing its AC extension cord. For the reasons articulate above, neither JP 3037182 nor Martensson '146, alone or in combination, suggest or motivate providing a housing located at the end of a substantial length of AC extension cord, the housing incorporating a battery back charger, one or more AC electrical outlets, and a reel for storing the AC extension cord.

B. Neither JP '182 Nor Martensson '146 Disclose A Rotatable Storage Structure Or Reel As Required By Dependent Claims 11, 24, and 41.

Dependent claims 11, 24, and 41 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as unpatentable over Japanese utility model JP3037182 in view of US 5,923,146 to Martensson ("Martensson '146"). The Applicant respectfully traverses the grounds for rejection.

Dependent claims 11, 24, and 41 require:

Claim 11. An electrical extension lead according to claim 1 wherein the storage structure is rotatably mounted within an outer housing, which outer housing is formed with a hole through which the cable is extendable. (emphasis added)

Claims 24. An electrical extension cord assembly according to claim 23 wherein the reel is rotatably mounted to the housing and the AC electrical cable is drawn onto the reel by rotation of the reel. (emphasis added)

Claim 41. An electrical extension cord assembly according to claim 39 wherein the reel is rotatably mounted in the housing and the AC electrical cable is spoolable onto the reel. (emphasis added)

The Examiner is wrong where she asserts that “Martensson teaches a . . . reel housing 330 rotatably (*sic*) mounted on the housing 304” and that “hollow storage structure 330 . . . is rotatably mounted within an outer housing 302.” Action page 3 lines 6-9. See also Action page 5 lines 5-9 and page 9 lines 14-17. Martensson ‘146 repeatedly describes its storage structure as comprising a “non-rotatable reel” 110/210/410. Martensson ‘146 at col. 4 lines 16-20 (re Fig. 3 embodiment), col. 5 line 60 (re Fig. 8 embodiment), and col. 6 line 47 (re Fig. 10 embodiment). The Martensson Figure 9 embodiment cited by the Examiner is not to the contrary, but rather that embodiment is stated to be “similar to that of Fig. 8.” Martensson ‘146 col. 6 lines 30-33.

Furthermore, regarding the Fig. 3 embodiment, Martensson clearly states that:

The spindle 132 is mounted in a spindle housing 136 in which it can be telescopically moved and at the same time maintained in the central position with respect to the casing 102. The spindle 132 and spindle housing 136 do not permit the reel 110 to rotate, in order to enable easy winding of the cable around the reel by the user, which would be problematic were the reel to be rotatable.

Martensson ‘146 col. 4 lines 57-63 (emphasis added). Nothing in Martensson ‘146 suggests that the Fig. 9 embodiment cited by the Examiner, or any other embodiment therein, is constructed differently and rotates. Therefore, since neither JP 3037182 nor Martensson ‘146 disclose a rotating reel, they do not, alone or in combination, make obvious the claimed limitations of dependent claims 11, 24, and 41.

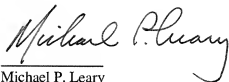
Since the Applicant believes that he has established the novelty and allowability of all three independent claims 1, 21, and 39, and furthermore has established the novelty and allowability of dependent claims 11, 24, and 41, he does not here address the other claims rejected under various 35 USC 103(a) grounds raised in the preceding Office Action.

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Reply dated July 24, 2007
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The Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 14-15, 27-31, and 42, but since he believes that he has traversed the Examiner's various grounds for rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), he declines, for the present, to amend those claims into independent form.

Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Michael P. Leary". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name and address.

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